

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7549

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 0009

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 03568

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PL, FR

SUBJECT: FRENCH-POLISH RELATIONS BLOSSOMING

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: BOTH THE QUAI AND THE POLISH EMBASSY
IN PARIS SPEAK ABOUT AN "INTENSIFICATION" OF "RICH
CONTACTS" BETWEEN FRANCE AND POLAND IN THE LAST YEAR AND
A HALF. WHILE SOME OF THIS TALK IS INTENDED TO SHOW
THAT THE GOF CAN HAVE WARM RELATIONS WITH SOCIALIST
COUNTRIES EVEN AFTER GISCARD'S SO-SO MOSCOW TRIP, THERE
IS ALSO GENUINE ECONOMIC SUBSTANCE IN THIS FURTHER
INTENSIFICATION OF FRANCE'S TRADITIONAL "SPECIAL RELA-
TIONSHIP" WITH POLAND. THE NEXT KEY EVENTS WILL BE THE
POLISH FOREIGN MINISTER'S VISIT TO PARIS FEBRUARY 18-20
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AND THE POLISH PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT SOMETIME IN APRIL

OR MAY. END SUMMARY.

2. AT THE QUAI, EASTERN EUROPEAN BRANCH CHIEF LEQUERTIER SPEAKS OF THE "CONTINUING GROWTH" OF "RICH CONTACTS" BETWEEN FRANCE AND POLAND WHICH HAVE DEVELOPED SINCE GISCARD'S VISIT TO WARSAW IN JUNE 1975, AND SAUVAGNAR-GUES' VISIT ABOUT A YEAR AGO. LEQUERTIER POINTS OUT THAT THE IMPORTANCE FRANCE ATTACHES TO THIS RELATIONSHIP WAS AGAIN DEMONSTRATED BY UNUSUALLY HIGH LEVEL RECEPTION ACCORDED TO JANUARY VISIT TO PARIS BY POLISH PARLIAMEN-TARY DELEGATION HEADED BY ZDZYSLAV GRUDZIEN, A POLISH POLITBUREAU MEMBER AND FIRST SECRETARY OF THE PARTY IN KATOWICE, WHO WAS RECEIVED BOTH BY CHIRAC AND PRESIDENT GISCARD.

3. LEQUERTIER ALSO SPOKE WITH EVIDENT SATISFACTION OF THE WARSAW VISIT LATE IN JANUARY OF FRENCH ECONOMICS AND FINANCE MINISTER FOURCADE AND INDUSTRY AND RESEARCH MINISTER D'ORNANO. ALTHOUGH THE OSTENSIBLE PURPOSE OF THIS VISIT WAS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE FRENCH-POLISH MIXED COMMISSION, THE TWO MINISTERS IN FACT WENT/TO SIGN AGREEMENTS ON THE EXPORT OF POLISH SULFUR (AND FRENCH CHEMICALS TO POLAND); AND (B) EVEN MORE IMPORTANTLY TO STUDY WAYS IN WHICH FRANCE COULD "CONTRIBUTE" IN THE CONTEXT OF THE NEXT POLISH FIVE-YEAR PLAN.

4. ACCORDING TO AN EVIDENTLY WELL-INFORMED AFP REPORT THIS STUDY RESULTED NOT ONLY IN PROMISE OF EARLY NEGOTIATION OF AN ACCORD FOR FRENCH PURCHASES OF POLISH COPPER, BUT SUGGESTED THAT WHOLE SERIES OF COOPERATION AGREEMENTS GEARED TO POLAND'S NEW FIVE-YEAR PLAN CAN PERHAPS BE CONCLUDED. SECTORS MENTIONED ARE AGRICULTURE, FOOD INDUSTRY METALLURGY, IRON AND STEEL, CHEMISTRY, COMPUTERS AND ELECTRONICS. REPORT ALSO NOTES WITH SATISFACTION THAT VALUE OF FRENCH-POLISH CONTRACTS CONCLUDED IN 1975 REACHED NEW HIGH OF TWO BILLION FRANCS, AND THAT LEVEL OF EXCHANGES AS A WHOLE HAS EXPANDED 400 PERCENT IN LAST FIVE YEARS.

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5. THE NEXT MAJOR FRENCH-POLISH EVENT QUAI TELLS US WILL BE THE VISIT OF POLISH FONMIN OLSZOWSKI TO PARIS FEBRUARY 18-20. SINCE FOURCADE AND D'ORNANO HAVE COVERED MOST OF ECONOMIC GROUND, OLSZOWSKI'S VISIT WILL PROBABLY FOCUS ON INTERNATIONAL QUESTIONS AND ON PREPARATION OF POLISH PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO FRANCE APRIL OR MAY.

6. INTERESTINGLY, VIRTUALLY THE SAME ENTHUSIASM IS REFLECTED IN OUR CONTACTS WITH THE POLISH EMBASSY. MOST RECENTLY POLISH MINISTER-COUNSELOR KORSCEWSKI TOLD US THAT BOTH FRENCH AND POLISH LEADERS WERE ANXIOUS TO SHOW THAT "MIDDLE-SIZED POWERS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE EAST-WEST LINE CAN COEXIST WITH MUTUAL BENEFITS" AND THAT "GISCARD WAS PARTICULARLY ANXIOUS AFTER HIS MOSCOW TRIP TO SET UP POLAND AS A 'DETENTE MODEL'." THIS WAS REASON FOR UNUSUAL SUCCESS POLISH PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION. GISCARD UNDERSTOOD THAT GRUDZIEN WAS "CLOSE

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PERSONAL FRIEND AND COLLABORATOR OF GIEREK." NOT ONLY DID GISCARD AGREE TO 15-MINUTE COURTESY CALL, BUT IN FACT KEPT HIM FOR AN HOUR.

7. KORSCEWSKI ALSO ECHOED FRENCH ENTHUSIASM FOR GROWING ECONOMIC RELATIONS. HE CLAIMED THAT IN 1975, FOR FIRST TIME, FRANCE BECAME POLAND'S MAIN SUPPLIER OF CAPITAL GOODS, BEATING OUT UK, USSR AND OTHERS. (ONE FRENCH REPORT CLAIMS THEY ARE STILL SECOND.) HE ALSO EXPRESSED SATISFACTION ABOUT COAL, SULFUR AND OTHER AGREEMENTS RECENTLY SIGNED. MOST IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENT, HOWEVER, WAS THAT THE FOURCADE-D'ORNANO VISIT ENABLED TWO SIDES

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TO HAVE FRANK EXCHANGE ON PROBLEMS OF ECONOMIC RELATIONS. POLAND COMPLAINED ABOUT ITS IMBALANCE IN TRADE, SINCE THE FRENCH ARE NOT BUYING ANYTHING BESIDES SULFUR AND COAL. THE POLES THEREFORE HAVE A BIG DEFICIT. THE FRENCH COMPLAINED FOR THEIR PART THAT THEY HAD LOST OUT RECENTLY ON SEVERAL MAJOR PROJECTS TO U.S. AND JAPANESE CONSORTIA.(*). THE RESULT WAS INGOING FRENCH-POLISH DISCUSSION OF MORE CONSTRUCTIVE ECONOMIC RELATIONS GEARED TO POLISH FIVE-YEAR PLAN.

8. KORSCEWSKI ALSO COMMENTED TO US ON SEVERAL OTHER TOPICS OF CURRENT INTEREST:

(A) ON "IDEOLOGICAL DETENTE": KORSCEWSKI SAID BOTH POLAND AND FRANCE HAVE AN INTEREST IN MAKING THIS CONCEPT WORK THROUGH DEEDS RATHER THAN WORDS. HE CLAIMED THAT POLAND IS GOING FASTER IN THIS AREA THAN FRANCE IS WILLING TO GO. POLAND PROPOSED ELIMINATION OF ALL VISAS FOR NEWSMEN, BUT GOF SAID THIS WAS PREMATURE. GOF IS CONCENTRATING INSTEAD ON EXCHANGES OF PUBLICATIONS, AND POLAND HAS SAID YES TO EVERY PROPOSAL SO FAR. (COMMENT: WE PLAN TO GET QUAI SIDETHIS STORY IN NEAR FUTURE.)

(B) ON CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN COMMUNIST PARTIES: KORSCEWSKI SAID HE IS UNAWARE OF PROGRESS OR LACK OF PROGRESS BUT THOUGHT IT WOULD BE A GOOD THING IF IT NEVER CAME OFF. THE MAIN OBJECTIVE WOULD BE TO CONDEMN IMPERIALISM. IN A PERIOD WHEN KEEPING EAST-WEST RELATIONS FINE-TUNED BETWEEN REQUIREMENTS OF DETENTE AND ANTI-IMPERIALIST STRUGGLE, SUCH A CONFERENCE WOULD NOT BE HELPFUL.

(C) ON DEVELOPMENTS IN THE PCF: KORSCEWSKI EXPRESSED VIEW THAT SURFACE CHANGES WE ARE WITNESSING REPRESENT PROFOUND CHANGES IN THE PARTY'S PERCEPTION OF POLITICAL LIFE IN FRANCE. THERE IS A GREATER REALISM IN THE PCF

ABOUT EXISTING IN THE FRENCH POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT. BUT
WE SHOULD NOT GET ANY WRONG IDEAS. THESE DEVELOPMENTS
DO NOT INDICATE A BREAKING UP OF "INTERNATIONAL
COMMUNIST SOLIDARITY" OR ANY IDEOLOGICAL WEAKNESS WITH
RESPECT TO CAPITALISM.
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9. COMMENT: ABOVE ACCOUNT SUGGESTS THAT GOF HAS BEEN
CLEVER AND SUCCESSFUL, NOT ONLY IN SHOWERING POLITICAL
ATTENTIONS ON POLES, BUT IN TRYING TO RELATE FOREIGN
TRADE TO POLISH PLANNING. ABOVE OBVIOUSLY IS NOT WHOLE
STORY. WE WOULD THEREFORE BE GRATEFUL EMBASSY WARSAW'S
COMMENTS AND EVALUATION.
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